

Quick Update:

- Membership opened January 2008: currently 186 members
- COGNO/NSA ASM 2010 - Coolum 30 Sept–3 Oct: Registrations now open!
- COGNO/NSA ASM Travel Grant: Applications now open!
- COGNO: 1st group publication - poster at ASCO

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COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 7

Autumn 2010



Message from our Chair

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the COGNO newsletter. Your group continues work on strengthening clinical trial opportunities for patients with brain tumours. Our membership grows and is becoming increasingly multi-disciplinary. Current members are encouraged to seek out potential new members and gently push them towards applying for COGNO membership.

The most exciting news is the local site initiations of the CATNON study, described on page 3. This is a critical achievement in the short history of COGNO as this is the first international study opened in Australia under the auspices of COGNO. We believe that the Australian investigators can make a substantive contribution to this important study and set our group up for future International studies.

Other positive news includes the abstract presentation of the Temozolomide/Caelyx study at ASCO and the imminent HREC submission of another home-grown chemotherapy protocol for recurrent GBM. As you will read, there are a couple of proposals in the pipeline and we are looking forward to your attendance at the COGNO ASM in early October. Thanks to Lindy Jeffree and the ASM convenors for their work to date in establishing a terrific program. I hope to see many of you there!

2010 COGNO/NSA ASM

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN for the combined Annual Scientific Meeting of COGNO and the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, 30 September–3 October 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast. The NSA ASM runs from 30 September–2 October; and the COGNO ASM from 2-3 October. There is a conjoint COGNO/NSA session on the morning of Saturday 2 October.



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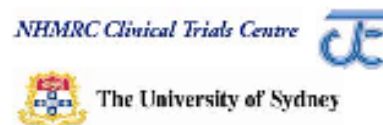


The COGNO scientific meeting will focus on future treatments for glioma, the use of biomarkers and challenges in clinical trials; and includes 3 world-renowned international speakers:

- **Professor Linda Liau**, neurosurgeon, molecular biologist, and director of the brain tumour program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- **Professor Michael Weller**, neurologist, cancer researcher and chairman of the Department of Neurology at University Hospital Zurich
- **Professor James Vredenburg**, medical oncologist and director of clinical research and of the neuro-oncology fellowship program at Duke University Medical Centre.

The COGNO ASM program appears on the next page – keep checking the COGNO website www.cogno.org.au for updates and to register online (or print out the paper registration form). You can also register via the NSA website www.nsa.org.au. We look forward to seeing you there.

TRAVEL GRANT available for COGNO/NSA ASM—valued at up to \$750 to assist with expenses incurred to attend the ASM. COGNO members who are neuro-oncology trainees, nurses or allied health professionals are eligible to apply. Applications close Friday 20 August—the application form is available on the COGNO website (www.cogno.org.au).



COGNO 3rd Annual Scientific Meeting Program
 Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd October 2010, Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast

SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER : DAY 1		
TIME	SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS	CHAIRS
1.30-3.00	Conjoint Session with the Neurological Society of Australia (NSA) How will we be treating high grade gliomas in five years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Linda Liao • A/Prof Michael Back • Dr James Vredenburgh • Prof Michael Weller • Questions and panel discussion 	Mr Martin Hunn Prof Mark Rosenthal
3.00-3.30	Afternoon Tea	
3.30-3.35	Welcome and day 1 program overview – Dr Lindy Jeffree (Convenor)	
3.35-3.45	COGNO group background, structure and brief update – Prof Mark Rosenthal	
3.45-5.30	Session 1 – Updates on current trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EORTC Phase III non 1p/19q deleted anaplastic gliomas (CATNON) – Prof Anna Nowak • Phase I/II AMG102 and Panitumumab (AMP) – Prof Mark Rosenthal • CABARET – Dr Kathryn Field • Low Grade Glioma/Elderly GBM – Dr Gail Ryan • Phase II Temozolomide/Caelyx in GBM – Prof Mark Rosenthal • Questions and discussion 	Dr Vanessa Estall
Saturday 2 nd October COGNO members dinner, 7pm, Eliza's, Hyatt Regency Coolum		
SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER : DAY 2		
7.30 – 9.00am	Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting – open meeting	Prof Mark Rosenthal
9.00 – 9.05	Welcome and day 2 program overview – Dr Lindy Jeffree (Convenor)	
9.05 – 10.30	Session 2 – Biomarkers and their use in clinical trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr James Vredenburgh • A/Prof Terry Johns • Dr Kerrie McDonald • Questions and discussion 	Dr Helen Wheeler
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.30	Session 3 – Challenges in clinical trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of Allied Health/Nurses in clinical trials - Sally McCowatt & Marina Kastelan • Incorporating Health Economics - Prof Deborah Schofield • Health professional initiated research - Prof Michael Weller • Questions and discussion 	Dr Liz Hovey
12.30 – 13.00	Closed Annual General Meeting – COGNO MEMBERS ONLY	Prof Mark Rosenthal
13.00 – 13.30	Lunch	

1 June 2010

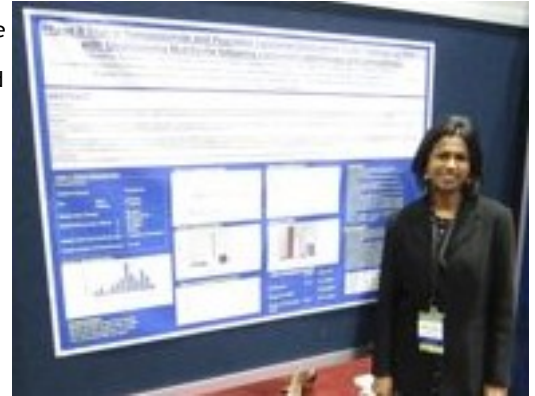
REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN: register online via www.cogno.org.au or www.nsa.org.au



ASCO 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2010 ASCO annual meeting was held in Chicago, 4-8 June. There were 90 posters, 8 oral abstracts and 6 education sessions dedicated to CNS tumours.

COGNO was very excited to have its 1st group publication displayed as a poster. The Temozolomide/Caelyx study was a phase II study of patients with GBM. Patients received postoperative chemoradiotherapy (CRT) to 60Gy with Temozolomide (TMZ) (75mg/m² orally daily) followed by post-CRT TMZ (initially 150mg/m² then increased to 200mg/m² orally, days 1-5) and caelyx (40mg/m² intravenously day 1) were administered every 4 weeks for a maximum of 6 cycles. The combination of TMZ and D is well tolerated, but based on the observed 6PFS and OS, does not appear to add significant clinical benefit in the treatment of newly diagnosed GBM. COGNO members can view the poster on the COGNO website.



Dr Sumitra Ananda at the poster presentation

ASCO's main themes were:

- optimal treatments of GBM in the elderly
- development of predictive and prognostic biomarkers
- novel agents for recurrent GBMs.

In particular, 2 Phase III RCTs comparing Temozolomide vs radiotherapy in elderly GBM patients were presented and came to different conclusions. Hopefully the current **NCIC elderly GBM trial (co-badged by COGNO)** will answer the question.

Several Phase I/II studies using novel therapy such as PARP1 inhibitor and new anti-angiogenic agents demonstrated promising result and confirmatory Phase II/III trials are being planned. The update on safety and survival data of BRAIN study was encouraging and highlighted the importance of COGNO's CABARET trial.

Perhaps the most interesting trial was presented by Stupp et al. testing a low amplitude alternating electric field against physician choice of chemotherapy in recurrent GBMs in a Phase III RCT.

Finally, a new concept was introduced at ASCO this year called "Trials in Progress Poster Session". This session was designed to facilitate awareness of open, ongoing clinical trials and encourage discussion and exchange of trial ideas. Ten such trial concepts were shown, including the Phase III CENTRIC RCT testing Cilengitide. Amongst the myriads of novel agents being tested in CNS tumours, what remains clear is the need for randomised studies with solid endpoints, that incorporates the use of molecular biomarkers as the basis for "personalised" treatment in the future.

CATNON UPDATE

CATNON (EORTC 26053-22054): Phase III trial on concurrent and adjuvant Temozolomide chemotherapy in non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma.

There have been a flurry of new activities with the CATNON trial since the last newsletter. Some of the sites have now received ethics approval with contracts and regulatory approvals under way. 3 sites have now been initiated and 1 site scheduled in early July. It was a pleasure to meet the teams from Royal Melbourne Hospital, Austin Health and Royal North Shore Hospital, and discuss the requirements and processes involved with the trial. Thank you for your hospitality!

The CATNON Trial has reached a milestone by activating its first Australian site. **Congratulations to Dr Lawrence Cher and his team at Austin Health (VIC)!** We look forward to the first patient recruited to the trial.

Local ethics and research governance is ongoing with other sites. As this trial consist of complex requirements including tight timelines for patient recruitment, we encourage sites to closely work with their local team and other departments involved in the treatment of patients as required by the protocol. As always, the CATNON Coordinating Centre welcomes all queries and any assistance we can provide at catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au.



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CONCEPTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Randomised phase II study for management of cerebral oedema in recurrent or progressive Glioblastoma

A randomised phase II study in recurrent glioblastoma multiforme

DO YOU HAVE A NEW CONCEPT? In addition to the above concepts, COGNO is always looking to develop new studies – from inception through to full protocol development, and managing feasibility and operational issues.

We aim to help progress and support development of important clinical trial questions. So if you would like to propose a concept for a COGNO clinical trial, please contact the team at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre on cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

COGNO TEAM UPDATE

We welcome 3 new members to our team: Jenny Chow, executive officer; James Chen, research fellow; and Kate Sawkins, clinical trial co-ordinator. Jenny has an extensive business administration background having worked with the RACGP, Divisions of General Practice and the University of Sydney; James is a radiation oncologist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; and Kate, with a background in physiotherapy, comes to us from the Breast Cancer Research Group at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney.



L-R: Alan Lucas, Bhagwant Sekhon, Kate Sawkins, Jenny Chow, James Chen, Ann Livingstone (nee Ratcliffe)

COGNO MEMBERSHIP

We also welcome new COGNO members who have joined in 2010: from VIC - Andrew Danks, Nicholas Smoll, Christopher Steer; from NSW - Karen Briscoe, James Chen, Jenny Chow, Manuel Graber, Clare Jones (associate), Stewart Kellie, Alan Landau, Susan Murphy (associate), Vita von Neumann-Cosel (associate), Jonathon Parkinson, Karen Robinson, Grahame Simpson, Jonathan Parkinson; from QLD - Zarnie Lwin, Andrew Pullar; from SA - Santosh Poonnoose; from TAS - Marketa Skala; from Canada - Normand Laperriere; and from the USA - Renato La Rocca.

Help us expand our Group's expertise and networking capacity. If you know someone who would like to join, you can now refer prospective members to our online membership application on our website (www.cogno.org.au) or to the COGNO Coordinating Centre on cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au.